



On the Gulch

A Newsletter For and About City of Helena Employees

***V.I.P.S.* Helena Police Department *Lt. Torey Keltner**

Employee News

Welcome to our new
Director of Public Works,
Randall Camp;

Fred Irby, Wastewater
Plant Operator;

Teresa Gonzalez, 911
Dispatcher; and

Police Officer Kent
Anderson.

When you see our new
employees, please
introduce yourself and
welcome them!

Discounts Available!

Did you know that as a City
of Helena employee, you are
offered discounts on services
such as AAA membership,
Verizon Wireless services,
computer purchases from
Dell and fitness club
memberships? Check out the
discount page on our Intranet
site:

[https://intranet.helenamt.gov/
hr/home/discounts.html](https://intranet.helenamt.gov/hr/home/discounts.html)

You may not recognize the
bright gold shirts worn
around town yet, but you
will! The people wearing
these shirts around Helena
and at community events are
part of the Helena Police
Department's volunteer
program, Volunteers in Police
Service or "VIPS".

The national "VIPS" organi-
zation was created to help
coordinate volunteer oppor-
tunities and provide training
and support to members. The
program is designed to help
law enforcement, and partic-
ularly police departments,
give citizens opportunities to
be positive influences in the
community. Volunteers help
make our communities safer,
stronger, and better
prepared to respond to
emergencies.

Police Chief Troy McGee
appointed Lt Torey Keltner
as the Volunteer Coordinator
to expand the Helena Police
Department's volunteer pro-
gram. There are 20 active
volunteers participating. Lt
Keltner receives calls each
week from people interested
in joining the team. If a
person wants to be involved,
the police department will
find them a place to help.

Volunteers in the program
have been seen in their
bright gold shirts patrolling
Helena in the downtown
area as well as in neighbor-
hoods all over town. They
are assisting the community
with their presence at events
like Alive at Five, Symphony
Under the Stars, The Last
Chance Stampede and Fair,
Chalk up Helena, and Y
Tuesdays. Some volunteers
participate in the Hiking
Patrol. Those volunteers met
with members of the Parks
Department for guidance
and will be seen hiking the
open land areas of Helena,
checking for concerns that
may be dangerous. When
an issue is identified the
information is passed on to
either the Parks Department
or the Police Department
who will assign a staff
member to follow up.

Soon there will be a
Volunteer Motor Patrol that
will be traveling the streets
of Helena. Some goals of
the motor patrol are to en-
force handicapped parking
violations and report aban-
doned vehicles. They will
help identify areas of the
community where criminal
mischievous, like graffiti, has
occurred.

There are also volunteers
participating in a Records
Support Program. They
assist in filing documents
and helping other staff and
community members with
their concerns. With the
large amount of documen-
tation processed through
the records division,
volunteers are greatly
appreciated!

The Helena Police
Volunteer philosophy has a
non-confrontational
approach with the public.
Volunteers identify
problems and are trained
to address them while
keeping the public and
themselves safe at all times.
If a situation is at all
hazardous they must
remove themselves from the
incident, contact the
Dispatch Center and allow
a police officer to respond.

The Helena Police
Department Volunteer
Program is a great
opportunity to play a vital
role in keeping our
community safe and
beautiful.

**Contact Lt Keltner (x8830)
for more information:**

tkeltner@helenamt.gov



Free Breakfast on September 25!

Learn more about our local United Way and start your day with **free breakfast** at the Great Northern Hotel

Full breakfast at 7am, coffee & pastries at 8:30am - September 25

Contact Michele Shephard (msheward@helenamt.gov, x8323), City HR Department for more information




Preserving History

The City of Helena recently partnered with Humanities Montana and the Montana History Foundation to begin the preservation of the minute books of the Helena City Council.

The first phase is now complete, thanks to the Mike and Maureen Mansfield Library at the University of Montana. The first seven books (1881 to 1902) are accessible by the public through the Montana State Library's *Montana Memory Project* at:

<http://cdm16013.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/search/collection/p16013coll35>



**City of Helena
Employee Appreciation
Luncheon:
September 17
Civic Center Ballroom
11:30am**



Open Studios Art Tours September 21 & 22

Don't miss the 5th annual Helena Area Open Studios Tour of working artist studios from noon-5:00 PM September 21 & 22.

The public is invited to visit artists at work in their studios, allowing the viewer to learn more about the creative process of art and buy directly from the artists. Artists will demonstrate their work at 9 locations as they create jewelry, paintings in a variety of styles, prints, sculptures, ceramics, pottery, collages and more.

As a special treat for the Helena Area Open Studios Tour's 5th year anniversary, tour participants can enjoy a leisurely guided trip on the Trolley to the studio locations inside the city on Saturday, September 21 for \$25. The Tour will leave the Womens Mural at 12:30 PM, returning at approximately 4:30 PM. Space is limited on the Trolley; please call 447-8491 to make a Trolley reservation.

For those who like to go to the studio locations on their own, tickets are \$15 for this

public art fundraiser. All ticket purchasers are eligible for the special prize drawing that includes a one-year membership to the Holter Museum of Art and gift certificates from: Lucca's; On Broadway; Silver Star and the Windbag.

Tickets are available at Helena art galleries and room 445 on the 4th floor of the City-County Building and from HPAC members: Vivian Hayes, Carol Montgomery, Carol Swanson, Bobi Harris, Jim Gilman, John Moore and Moira McNutt. For more information, go to

www.helenapublicarts.com.

Tech Tip #6: Self-paced Training

You can use the county intranet training resources at <https://intranet.lccountymt.gov> to improve your skills!

All city and county employees with a username and password to the network can access these resources. Sign in using the username and password that you use to access your computer at work.

After signing in, hover over the ITS button and select Training. On the training page,

mouse over Training in the left column and check out Office 2010 Manuals or Office 2007 Manuals to select a program to explore.

The manuals are divided into PDF chapters so you can read them on your computer or print them. Save practice files on your computer so you can open them and follow the exercises in the manuals. Contact [Ellen Bell](#) (x8360) for assistance or to schedule training in the IT&S lab.

City/County Blood Donations = Lifesaving *Debbie Thomas

At our Red Cross blood drive at the City County building on July 31st, the donor goal of 18 was surpassed; **21** productive units were collected (117% of goal!)

We've hosted 26 Red Cross blood drives at the City-County Building since 2002, yielding **536** total units of blood, which resulted in **1,608** gifts of life to local Montana Hospitals. This does not include a number of people from our offices that donate at different locations.

There are three life saving products derived from each unit of blood collected. When you donate, you may be helping up to three families in desperate need.

There is no replacement for blood products, and knowing that donation is voluntary, I would like to congratulate and thank all of you.

With your donations, we are working together to ensure that Montana's blood supply is available when Montanan's are in need. There is no substitute for you.~ Everyone makes a difference.

For more information about donating blood, visit <http://www.redcrossblood.org/>, or contact Debbie Thomas (x8395) to find out about our next blood drive: dthomas@helenamt.gov

Retirement is not so distant! Consider supplementing retirement savings with the State of Montana deferred compensation plan. More information is coming this month!